

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A system supporting the remote management of options related to media consumption, the system comprising:
 - a first television display in a first home;
 - the first television display having an associated first set of options governing the consumption of media;
 - a first storage, in the first home, that stores the media;
 - the first storage supporting consumption of the media by the first television display, and having an associated first network address;
 - a second television display in a second home;
 - the second television display having an associated second set of options governing the consumption of media;
 - a second storage, in the second home, that stores the media;
 - the second storage supporting consumption of the media by the second television display, and having an associated second network address;and
 - server software that receives, via a communication network, a request that identifies at least one of the associated first and second network addresses, a user identifier, and authorization information, and

responds by identifying the other of the associated first and second network addresses, to support management of one of the associated first and second sets of options governing the consumption of media.

2. The system of claim 1 wherein the first and second network addresses are one of an Internet protocol (IP) address, a media access control (MAC) address, and an electronic serial number (ESN).
3. The system of claim 1 wherein the communication network comprises at least one of a cable infrastructure, a satellite network infrastructure, a digital subscriber line (DSL) infrastructure, an Internet infrastructure, an intranet infrastructure, a wired infrastructure, and a wireless infrastructure.
4. The system of claim 1 wherein the communication network is the Internet.
5. The system of claim 1 wherein the media comprises at least one of audio, a still image, video, real-time video, and data.
6. The system of claim 1 wherein consumption comprises at least one of playing audio, displaying a still image, displaying video, and displaying data.
7. The system of claim 1 wherein each of the associated first and second sets of options governing the consumption of media comprise at least one of a media schedule, a device address, a device identifier, billing information, tracking information, channel setup information, program

setup information, digital rights management information, media caching information, media storage information, media filter information, a user profile, and pay-per-view event information.

8. The system of claim 7 wherein the media filtering information comprises at least one of an industry rating, a program time, a language, content information, and a personal program preference.

9. The system of claim 1 wherein management comprises at least one of observing, setting, modifying, deleting, registering, authenticating, and determining authority.

10. The system of claim 1 further comprising:

a telephone voice response system for receiving user input via a telephone network, and having an associated third network address; and

server software that receives from the telephone voice response system a request that identifies at least one of the associated first, second, and third network addresses, a user identifier, and authorization information, and responds by identifying at least one of the associated first, second, and third network addresses, to support management of one of the associated first and second sets of options governing the consumption of media.

11. The system of claim 10 wherein the telephone voice response system recognizes at least one of human speech and dual-tone multi-frequency (DTMF) signals.
12. The system of claim 1 wherein the server software functions to perform at least one of the storage and delivery of media.
13. A system supporting the remote management of options related to media consumption, the system comprising:
 - a television display in a first home;
 - a first storage that stores the media, in the first home, the first storage communicatively coupled to the television display, and having an associated first set of options governing the consumption of media, and an associated first network address;
 - set top box circuitry, in the first home, communicatively coupled to the first storage to support consumption of media;
 - a personal computer monitor in a second home;
 - a second storage that stores the media, in the second home, the second storage communicatively coupled to the personal computer monitor, and having an associated second set of options governing the consumption of media, and an associated second network address;

personal computer circuitry, in the second home, communicatively coupled to the second storage to support consumption of media; and

server software that receives via a communication network a request that identifies at least one of the associated first and second network addresses, a user identifier, and authorization information, and responds by identifying the other of the associated first and second network addresses, to support management of one of the associated first and second sets of options governing the consumption of media.

14. The system of claim 13 wherein the first and second network addresses are one of an Internet protocol (IP) address, a media access control (MAC) address, and an electronic serial number (ESN).

15. The system of claim 13 wherein the communication network comprises at least one of a cable infrastructure, a satellite network infrastructure, a digital subscriber line (DSL) infrastructure, an Internet infrastructure, an intranet infrastructure, a wired infrastructure, and a wireless infrastructure.

16. The system of claim 13 wherein the communication network is the Internet.

17. The system of claim 13 wherein the media comprises at least one of audio, a still image, video, real-time video, and data.
18. The system of claim 13 wherein consumption comprises at least one of playing audio, displaying a still image, displaying video, and displaying data.
19. The system of claim 13 wherein each of the associated first and second sets of options governing the consumption of media comprise at least one of a media schedule, a device address, a device identifier, billing information, tracking information, channel setup information, program setup information, digital rights management information, media caching information, media storage information, media filter information, a user profile, and pay-per-view event information.
20. The system of claim 19 wherein the media filtering information comprises at least one of an industry rating, a program time, a language, content information, and a personal program preference.
21. The system of claim 13 wherein management comprises at least one of observing, setting, modifying, deleting, registering, authenticating, and determining authority.
22. The system of claim 13 further comprising:

a telephone voice response system for receiving user input via a telephone network, and having an associated third network address; and

server software that receives from the telephone voice response system a request that identifies at least one of the associated first, second, and third network addresses, a user identifier, and authorization information, and responds by identifying at least one of the associated first, second, and third network addresses, to support management of one of the associated first and second sets of options governing the consumption of media.

23. The system of claim 22 wherein the telephone voice response system recognizes at least one of human speech and dual-tone multi-frequency (DTMF) signals.

24. The system of claim 13 wherein the server software functions to perform at least one of the storage and delivery of media.

25. A system supporting the remote management of options related to media consumption, the system comprising:

a storage for storing media;
set top box circuitry supporting the consumption of media via a communication network, the set top box communicatively coupled to the storage, and having an associated set of options governing the consumption of media;

a telephone voice response system for receiving user input via a telephone network; and

server software that receives from the telephone voice response system a request, and responds by enabling the management of the associated set of options governing the consumption of media.

26. The system of claim 25 wherein the communication network comprises at least one of a cable infrastructure, a satellite network infrastructure, a digital subscriber line (DSL) infrastructure, an Internet infrastructure, an intranet infrastructure, a wired infrastructure, and a wireless infrastructure.